

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a secure transaction over a multi-computer network comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing at least two separate computer programs that are designed to communicate with each other over a multi-computer network, each separate computer program resident and runnable on a separate computer of the multi-computer network, at least one of the at least two separate computer programs further being a security server program for receiving and processing the secure transaction and at least one of the at least two separate computer programs further being a customer program;
 - b. running the security server program on a substantially continuous basis thereby making it available to receive secure transactions;
 - c. running the customer program on an as needed basis for communicating with the security server program with the customer program across a first communication port;
 - d. receiving a dynamically assigned port address from the security server program, further, receiving from the security server program a public set of numbers and a security server intermediate value that was calculated using at least the public set of numbers;

- e. switching the customer program to the ~~second~~ dynamically assigned port address for further communications with the security server program;
 - f. having the customer program calculate a customer intermediate value using at least the public set of numbers and a shared final value using at least the customer intermediate value and the security server intermediate value;
 - g. sending the customer intermediate value to the security server program;
 - h. having the security server program calculate the shared final value using the customer intermediate value and the security server intermediate value;
 - i. having both the security server program and the customer program create an encryption key using at least the shared final value;
 - j. having the customer computer encrypt transaction information using the encryption key;
 - k. sending the encrypted transaction information to the security server program;
 - l. having the security server program de-crypt the encrypted transaction information; and
 - m. having the security server program process the transaction.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the public set of numbers is at least a public prime number and a prime modulus number.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the customer intermediate value is further calculated using a customer selected random number and the security server intermediate value is calculated using a security server selected random number.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein the shared final value is calculated by the customer computer program using at least the security server intermediate value, the customer selected random number, and the prime modulus; and the shared final value is calculated by the security server program using at least the customer intermediate value, the security server selected random number, and the prime modulus.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the step of creating an encryption key using at least the shared final value comprises at least the step of passing at least a portion of the shared final value through a further encryption algorithm.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the further encryption algorithm is a one-way function.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according the claim 6 + further including the step of having the customer computer program send customer profile information to the security server program for comparison with customer profile information previously stored on a computer memory accessibly by the security server program, thereby verifying the identity of the customer.

8. (Original) The method according the claim 1 further including the step of having the customer computer program send customer profile information to the security server program for comparison with customer profile information previously stored on a computer memory accessibly by the security server program, thereby verifying the identity of the customer.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the customer profile information comprises a pass phrase that may have white spaces and answers to customer created personal information questions.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the customer profile information comprises a pass phrase that may have white spaces and answers to customer created personal information questions.